



CORE - OUREACH: BEYOND THE COMFORT ZONE

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You that You see people more clearly than we do. As we meet, give us the honesty of Ananias: help us name our fears without being ruled by them. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, grow our love for people, and show us one faithful next step of obedience. In Jesus' name, Amen

OPENING QUESTION_(OPTIONAL)

What is harder for you: talking to someone new, or bringing up your faith in an ordinary conversation? Why?



© 2025 by EVERYNATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

WORD

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptised, and , taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

- Acts 9:10-19

MAIN REFLECTION POINTS (REFINED)

Who is a person, or what kind of person, you would find hardest to approach with the love and truth of Jesus - and why?

1. Face the fear

Ananias' concern was real: Saul was dangerous. But Jesus said, 'Go' (Acts 9:15-17). Faith does not deny risk; it lets Jesus have the final word. Jonah is a helpful contrast: he ran from God's call to show mercy to Nineveh (Jonah 1:1-3).

Discuss: What fear, past experience, or assumption might be keeping us from moving toward someone with the love of Jesus?

2. Cross the boundary

Ananias had to leave the safety of his Christian circle and go to Saul. Both men were Jewish, so Acts does not make this an ethnic or economic divide. The clear boundary was that Saul was an enemy of the Christian community. Jesus calls Ananias to move toward him.

MAIN REFLECTION POINTS (cont...)

Discuss: What 'street called Straight' might Jesus be asking you to walk down - one ordinary but uncomfortable step of obedience?

3. Go in dependence on Jesus

Saul did not look like Paul yet. Still, Ananias called him 'Brother,' prayed for him, and welcomed him into the Christian community. Jesus sees what we cannot. In Luke 10, He sends His followers in dependence, not self-confidence (Luke 10:1-9).

Discuss: Why is it freeing to remember that Jesus is responsible for the outcome, while we are responsible for faithful love and obedience?

Cross the boundary: Move toward people outside your normal circle.

Face the fear: Name fear honestly, but let Jesus' word lead.

Go in dependence: Take the next faithful step and leave the outcome to Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Name a person - Someone I may have avoided, written off, or assumed would never be open to Jesus.

2 Name a boundary - The fear, comfort, assumption, or inconvenience I need Jesus to help me cross.

3 Choose the next step - invitation.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are already at work in the people around us. Give us courage to move beyond comfort, wisdom to love well, and faith to obey You without needing to see the result first. Help us see people as You see them and represent You faithfully this week. In Jesus' name, Amen